Patent Application Serial No. 10/006,530   -7-   Docket No. 1232-4792
Reply to February 8, 2006 Office Action

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 10, and 16-19 are independent in form. Claims 1-19 are rejected.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the disclosure, because of informalities. More particularly, the Examiner noted that in the previous amendment to the specification, "hybrid circuit 98" should be "hybrid circuit 96" to match the new replacement FIG. 9.

The Specification is amended herein to change the recitation "hybrid circuit 96" on page 18, line 15 to "hybrid circuit 98." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the Specification.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 8, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) allegedly as being anticipated by Miller, Jr. et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,356,356 ("Miller") in view of Nishimura, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0051181 ("Nishimura"). Applicants respectfully disagree with the characterization of the claims and prior art in the stated rejection and respectfully traverse this rejection.

The instant application claims priority to Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2000-399017 and 2000-377047, which were filed on December 27, 2000 and December 12, 2000, respectively. Applicants are preparing certified translations of these priority documents and will

991615 v1

file these translations in accordance with MPEP 201.15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully

submit that Nishimura is not available as a prior art reference and should not be used as a basis

for rejection of the claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as claimed is neither

taught nor suggested by, and therefore is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of,

Miller. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the

rejection of claims 1, 2, 8, 16 and 18.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-5, 10, 12-15, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

allegedly being unpatentable over Miller in view of Nishimura further in view of Shimoosawa,

U.S. Patent No. 6,658,456 ("Shimoosawa"). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

allegedly being unpatentable over Miller in view of Nishimura further in view of Shimoosawa,

further in view of Blossman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,721,783 ("Blossman"). Claim 7 is rejected

under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miller in view of Nishimura

further in view of Shimoosawa, further in view of Saito et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,266,160

("Saito"). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over

Miller in view of Nishimura further in view of Fujii et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,883,016 ("Fujii").

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miller in

view of Nishimura further in view of Shimoosawa, further in view of Fujii. Applicants

respectfully disagree with the characterization of the claims and prior art in the stated rejection

and respectfully traverses these rejections.

991615 v1

Each of the above rejections relies on Nishimura in combination with other prior art of record. As noted above, Applicants believe that Nishimura is not available as a prior art reference and should not be used as a basis for rejection of the claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as claimed is neither taught nor suggested by, and therefore is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of, Miller, Shimoosawa, Blossman, Saito, or Fujii, alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 19.

Dependent Claims

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of the dependent claims. Applicants submit that, in view of the amendments to the claims presented herein and, for at least similar reasons as to why the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend are believed allowable as discussed supra, the dependent claims are also allowable. Applicants however, reserve the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary or appropriate.

CONCLUSION

For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

991615 v1

Patent Application Serial No. 10/006,530   -10-   Docket No. 1232-4792
Reply to February 8, 2006 Office Action

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may

be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No.

1232-4792.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in

addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to

grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is

hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for

an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 1232-4792.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: May 8, 2006   By: _____
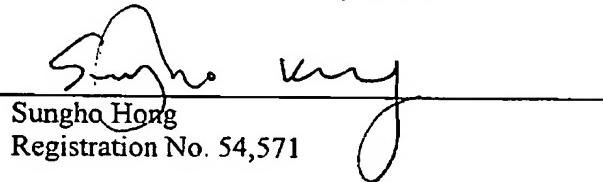
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991615 v1